

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Hand-held snack items and methods for producing them are well known in the art. Examples of such snack items include granola bars, breakfast bars, cereal bars, and grain cakes such as rice cakes, corn cakes and popcorn cakes. The grain cakes are made by a method wherein the grain is expanded in an enclosed chamber in the shape of a disk or cake. In a typical method a premeasured quantity of grain is fed onto a heated piston. The piston and cereal grain are then advanced by a hydraulic cylinder into a heated female mold to create a small, hermetically sealed chamber enclosing the cereal grains. Heat and superatmospheric pressure are thereby applied to the cereal grains until, at a predetermined time, the pressure in the chamber is suddenly released by retracting the hydraulic cylinder. The suddenly depressurized chamber is not, however, sufficiently opened to release the cereal grains, but instead the hydraulic cylinder is retained in a substantially closed, but vented position. Therefore, as the pressure is released, the cereal grains expand to substantially fill the chamber, and while still in the plastic state bond together to form a small cake or cracker. The hydraulic piston is then fully retracted to open the chamber, and the cake is mechanically ejected. These cake-forming devices are most frequently used with rice as the cereal grain since rice is capable of relatively easy expansion into a self-supporting cake.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The coated hand-held food item resulting in this alternative method from the application of the secondary edible, liquid food coating material to the preliminary coated hand-held food item typically comprises from about 70% to about 10%, preferably from about 60% to about 20%, more preferably from about 50% to about 30% by weight of said secondary edible, liquid food coating material, with the balance comprising the initial formed hand-held food item.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-18 and 20.

Please add the following claims: